

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 SAIGON 08638 290610Z

11
ACTION SS-30

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----- 083416
P 290405Z JUN 74
FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON
TO AMEMBASSY JAKARTA PRIORITY
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 8638

EXDIS

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: ENRG, PFOR, VS, ID
SUBJECT: VISITING SHELL (US) OFFICIAL TO DISCUSS DISPUTED AREAS WITH
PERTAMINA OFFICIAL

1. MR. GERARD A. BURTON, VP INTERNATIONAL VENTURES OF SHELL OIL CO. OF HOUSTON IS SCHEDULED TO HAVE DISUCSSIONS WITH GEN. SUKAMTO, CHIEF OF PERTAMINA'S OFFSHORE OPERATIONS, CONCERNING A SMALL PORTION OF SHELL'S BLOCK 4 WHICH IS CLAIMED BY BOTH VIET-NAM AND INDONESIA. BURTON HAS AN APPOINTMENT WITH SUKAMTO AT 1000 HOURS JULY 1. HE WILL ARRIVE JAKARTA EVENING JUNE 29 AND WILL STAY AT HOTEL INDONESIA.

2. BURTON PLANS TO GIVE ASSURANCES THAT SHELL WOULD AVOID WORKING IN OVERLAPPING AREAS. HE EMPHASIZES THAT THE DISPUTED AREA IN BLOCK 4 IS VERY DEEP (OVER 500 FT.) AND A TINY PORTION (125 SQ. KM.) OF 5,000 SQ. KM. BLOCK.

3. BURTON HAS INFORMED EMBOFF THAT IN 1973 HE TALKED TO ANOTHER PERTAMINA OFFICIAL ABOUT ANOTHER BLOCK WHICH WAS AWARDED TO SHELL IN FIRST ROUND AND PARTS OF WHICH ARE ALSO IN DISPUTED AREA. BURTON THEN GAVE THE PERTAMINA OFFICAL ASSURANCES THAT SHELL WOULD STAY OUT OF THE DISPUTED AREA. MEETING WAS VERY CORDIAL.

4. IN VIEW OF FOREGOING DEVELOPMENTS, JAKARTA MAY WISH TO SEE BURTON BOTH BEFORE AND AFTER HE MAKES CALL ON SUKAMTO.
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PAGE 02 SAIGON 08638 290610Z

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